

LLANFYLLIN

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

(COPY.)

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

For the Year 1895.

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LLANFYLLIN, FEB. 12TH, 1896.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Llanfyllin
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN.

I beg to lay before you my Report on the Sanitary condition of your District for the year 1895.

The population according to the census of 1891 is 13,947, and the area of the District is 112,068 acres.

There were 233 deaths registered during the past year, being an annual rate of 16.7 per 1000. The death-rate for 1894 was 17.3, and for 1893 was 15.19 per 1000.

There were 343 births registered, giving a birth-rate for the year of 24.59 per 1000 as compared with 23.7 in 1894, and 26 per 1000 in 1893.

The following Table will serve to compare the birth and death rates with similar statistics from England and Wales :

	Births per 1000.	Deaths per 1000.	Deaths from principal Zymotic diseases per 1000.	Deaths of infants under 1 year per 1000 births.
England and Wales ...	30.3	— 18.7	— 2.14	— 161
Llanfyllin Rural Sanitary Division ...	24.59	— 16.7	— 0.7	— 113

The deaths of children under one year of age numbered 39. Of these deaths 13 were due to convulsive, 7 to respiratory, and 14 to wasting diseases and premature births.

135 deaths were registered under the age of 65, and 98 at that age and upwards. There were 15 deaths from Phthisis or Consumption, 38 from Heart-disease, and 36 from inflammatory diseases of the organs of respiration.

The Statistics for the three Divisions of the District are tabulated as follows :

Llansantffraid Sub-Registration District. Population—6395.

Registered Births—166.	Birth-rate per 1000	...	...	25.9
	Do. do.	for 1894	...	24.3
	Do. do.	for 1893	...	26.5
Registered Deaths—102.	Death-rate per 1000	...	...	15.9
	Do. do.	for 1894	...	15.7
	Do. do.	for 1893	...	17

Llanrhaiadr (Mont.) Sub-Registration District. Population—2519.

Registered Births—57.	Birth-rate per 1000	...	...	22.6
Registered Deaths—42.	Death-rate per 1000	...	..	16.6

Llanfair Sub-Registration District. Population—5033.

Registered Births—120.	Birth-rate per 1000	...	...	23.8
	Do. do.	for 1894	...	24
	Do. do.	for 1893	...	23.8
Registered Deaths—89.	Death-rate per 1000	...	...	17.6
	Do. do.	for 1894	...	20.8
	Do. do.	for 1893	...	13.9

EPIDEMICS. I may mention that in every outbreak of fever the necessary precautions for personal isolation, &c., are inculcated, and special care taken to obviate the risk of dissemination by such general causes as milk-selling, clothes taken in to wash, attendance at school, &c. ; also after recovery to point out the necessity for disinfection by sulphur fumigation, and subsequent lime-washing and re-papering of the infected rooms.

INFLUENZA. There have been, during the year, numerous cases of this fever throughout the District, and no less than ten deaths, are recorded as due to complications following it.

WHOOPING-COUGH, during the past year, has been the cause of three deaths. About February it was prevalent in the neighbourhood of Penybontfawr, and the School was closed for 14 days. It appears afterwards to have gone further down the District towards Arddleen and Pool Quay. The School in the latter place was closed last December for four weeks.

MEASLES. There has been a wide spread epidemic over the Llanfair and part of the Llansantffraid Districts, but no deaths have been recorded. I considered it necessary to recommend the temporary closing of the Arddleen, Llanerfyl, Llangadfan, and Garthbeibio Schools.

SCARLET FEVER. A fatal case took place last June in an isolated farm house between Llanerfyl and Carno. I visited the house ; all proper precautions to prevent its spread had been taken by the Medical attendant, the rooms had been whitewashed and disinfected. I could find no cause for the outbreak ; there were no cases in the neighbourhood, and no fresh ones appeared afterwards. In September an outbreak occurred in a cottage at Bwlch-y-cibau : three children were affected. No medical man was in attendance, and the mother, through ignorance, (the fever being of a mild type), allowed them to attend school when in the desquamative and most contagious stage of the disease, with the consequence that some more children were attacked. The School was closed for three weeks, and all precaution taken. The epidemic recurred in November with greater virulence, one case proving fatal ; no fresh ones have appeared since November. A few cases also took place in October in the parish of Llandrinio.

DIPHTHERIA has been responsible for two deaths. The outbreak at Llymystyn Hall, Garthbeibio, I reported to you last October. Three children were travelling with their parents from London to stay at the Hall ; on the journey one of them was seized with symptoms of illness, which afterwards proved to be Diphtheria ; another child was also taken ill, and both died. It is clear, therefore, that the disease was imported into the district. All possible precautions for disinfection were taken, and no other cases took place.

In December, two cases occurred near Meifod. one at Penycoed and one Mingwern : both recovered. The one at Penycoed was probably caused by the effluvia emanating from a manure heap near the cottage ; this heap has since been cleared away. Both cottages, although standing on high ground, are built on damp soil.

TYPHOID FEVER. In June an outbreak, which was reported to you at the time, occurred in one of a row of houses known as the Canal House Cottages, Llandisilio. There were two cases, both children, one proving fatal. The water supply was good. I found that the occupants of the cottages were in the habit of emptying the pails from their closets into the Canal Basin—an unused stagnant piece of water in connection with the

Canal, and about 20 yards away,—thus converting the basin into an open cesspool. The children were in the habit of playing about this water, and I have no doubt they contracted the disease from inhaling the stench arising therefrom.

In July an outbreak took place at the back of the Winllan Road, Llan-santffraid. Three persons were affected, and all recovered. It was probably due to the impurity of the drinking water; the subject of the water-supply of this part of the village I will refer to later on.

INSPECTIONS. I have made, generally in company with your Inspectors, systematic inspection of the whole of the hamlets and villages in your district.

Llanfair. The factory-pool, during the summer months, was the cause of much complaint; the weather being dry it had not been properly flushed. It should be cleaned out thoroughly every two months. Several minor nuisances, such as blocked up drains, have been abated, and the condition of the village is on the whole satisfactory.

Meifod. The main drain, which had been choked, has been opened up and new socket pipes laid down. The tanks in the drains should be cleaned out at least once a year. A row of pigstyes at the upper end of the village, which were badly paved and undrained and thereby causing a serious nuisance, have now been properly paved and drained. A nuisance arising from two closets furnished with a leaking cesspit has also been abated. I have brought before your notice the filthy condition of the ditch behind the cottages at the lower end of this village. There is a dispute as to whether this ditch is a public watercourse or not, and the matter is not yet settled.

Bwlch-y-cibau. The surface drain from the Schoolhouse, which runs along the side of the School, and which was choked up with sediment causing a nuisance, has been deepened and thoroughly cleaned out.

Llandrinio—Rhoscommon Lane. Last September I reported a filthy cesspool, in a farm yard quite close to the road side, filled with drainage from pigstyes and a cowshed. This has been removed and now kept clean. In the same Lane there is a row of three cottages which have one closet built at end of garden; this closet has neither pail nor ashpit; its contents fall into a ditch which runs along the end of the garden, forming a serious nuisance. A properly bricked ashpit should be constructed here.

Llandisilio.—Canal House Cottages. I made a special report to you last November on the sanitary condition of these cottages, and suggested the pigstyes should be better paved and drained; the drain to empty into a tank, into which the surface drain in front of the cottages should also run instead of emptying into a ditch as at present. Your Sanitary Inspector has met the owners of the cottages, and they have agreed to these improvements and have commenced to carry them out.

Llanymynech. The cottage over the stable at the Bridge Inn, which I condemned last October as unfit for habitation, is still occupied. The tenant will leave as soon as he gets a house. It will be adviseable, I think, to fix a time by which he must leave.

Llansantffraid. Last August I reported to you the insanitary condition of the main drain at the upper end of the village. Several cottages in Church Lane had their closets built over the drain and emptying directly into it. Your Inspector was instructed by you to serve notices directing these open-

ings in the drains to be bricked up and pails to be supplied to the closets. In nearly every instance this has been carried out. The upper part of this drain has been thoroughly cleaned out and is now in excellent condition. Some scheme for removing the nightsoil in this village is sadly needed. The gardens in connection with the cottages are too small to admit of the pail-contents being buried without causing a nuisance; and so frequently they are emptied at night on any piece of waste land that happens to be near. The most efficient way of dealing with pail-closets is to supply each one with two pails fitted with lids; when one is full the lid can be put on and the pail removed without causing a nuisance. This is a matter which the Parish Council should take into their own hands. It would be easy to arrange for the whole of the night-soil to be removed once a week. The expense of a suitable cart would not be large and it would be a great advance in the sanitation of this village.

Llangynog. Several nuisances due to closets out of repair, and manure heaps, have been reported to you as occurring in this village. Notices have been served and the nuisances are being abated.

Llansaintffraid Deytheur. In consequence of complaints made by this Parish Council as to nuisances, and cases of houses alleged to be unfit for habitation, I visited the places complained of in company with your Inspector, and sent you a special report on December 19th.

WATER SUPPLY.

Penybontfawr. The village pump, which has been reported to you so frequently, will be erected and put in order at once. When this is put up the supply of water in the village will be ample. At present it is only obtained on sufferance from private sources.

Llansantffraid. The cause of the outbreak of Typhoid Fever at the Winllan end of the village, which I reported to you last July, was, no doubt, due to the impurity of the water supply. The supply at this end of the village is obtained from three pumps. The water from one of them has been analysed by Messrs. WYLEY, of Coventry, last June, and condemned as "totally unfit for drinking." A second pump is within a few yards of the first. The third is about 30 yards away, near Mr. Llowarch's. I have no doubt the water from all of them is impure, but to settle the matter, I must ask you to sanction my obtaining samples of water from the 2nd and 3rd pumps to be submitted for analysis by the County Analyst. It is interesting to note that in 1875 a similar outbreak of Typhoid occurred in this part of the village, when the water from a pump—known as Miss Griffiths', and which I believe to be identical with the one near Mr. Llowarch's—was analysed by the County Analyst and found to be unfit for drinking.

The supply of water in other parts of your District is ample and in good condition.

In conclusion, I have to thank your Inspectors—Messrs. Rowlands and Griffiths—for the able assistance they have given me, and for the promptitude with which they have carried out the work entrusted to them.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F. FELIX JONES, D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.



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